REMARKS

Claims 1-55 are currently pending. Claims 45-52, 54 and 55 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a restriction requirement, which Applicants have traversed. Claims 1-44 and 53 have been examined.

Independent claims 1, 13 and 29 have been amended to incorporate the limitations for their respective dependent claims 7, 23 and 39, which have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1-44 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) or 103(a) over U.S. Pat. No. 6,090,459 ("Jadamus"); under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Pat. No. 5,651,922 ("Nahass"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

For a claim to be anticipated, "the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim" and "the elements must be arranged as required by the claim." MPEP § 2131. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Jadamus fails to anticipate Applicants' amended claims since Jadamus fails to specifically teach Applicants'claimed composite having a bulk resistivity of less than about 10 ohm-cm. Thus, Applicants' claims are novel over Jadamus and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the prior art must suggest the desirability of the claimed invention. MPEP § 2143.01. In other words, there must be some teaching or suggestion in the art (and not by hindsight gleaned from Applicants' specification) to motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jadamus or Nahass to obtain Applicants' claims invention. MPEP § 2143.01.

While Jadamus discloses an inner layer of PVDF and graphite fibrils, Jadamus further reports that the inner layer of PA (polyamide) and graphite fibrils purportedly perform substantially better (*i.e.*, has more than 10 to 100 times lower surface resistance) than the PVDF/graphite fibril layer. Col. 5-8, Table 1, compare surface resistance of Examples 1-5

(PA/GF) vs Example 6 (PVDF/GF). Therefore, without using hindsight from Applicants' specification, one of ordinary skill in the art seeking to modify or improve the invention of Jadamus would select polyamide (PA) as the preferred polymer of choice and not PVDF since the Jadamus reference teaches that PVDF is purportedly substantially worse than PA for what Jadamus' purpose. As such, there is no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Jadamus to obtain Applicants' claimed composite.

On the other hand, Nahass mentions polyvinylidene fluoride once in a large laundry list of polymers. Col. 5, lines 55 - col. 6, lines 36. There is nothing in Nahass that suggests or motivates one of ordinary skill in the art to select polyvinylidene fluoride polymer for incorporation of carbon fibrils as claimed by Applicants. This is further confirmed by the absence of any examples which use polyvinylidene fluoride polymer. Col. 8, line 50 - col 17, line 56.

Nahass further teaches that the preferred polymers is a blend of polyphenylene ethers or polyphenylene oxides with polyamides or polycarboxylic reactants. Col. 6, lines 25-31. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would actually be led away from forming the polyvinylidene fluoride polymer composite as claimed by Applicants.

Thus, Applicants' claims are nonobvious in view of Jadamus or Nahass and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Thus, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees, please charge them to our firm Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

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Respectfully submitted,

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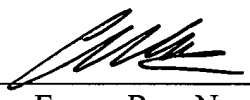
By: 

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